



# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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## ● DEADLINE!! 2004-2005 Chapter 296-46B WAC – Rule Process

The department has chosen to delay beginning the rule revision process for Chapter 296-46B WAC this year until stakeholders have an opportunity to review the new 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC). The 2005 NEC will be widely available September 15th. **The department will open the proposal period for rule change September 15, 2004. Proposals must be received by October 15, 2004.** Details of the process are in the August WAC SPECIAL EDITION of this newsletter at:

[www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/WhatsNew/](http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/WhatsNew/). A proposal form is now available on the Electrical Program website at: [www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/WhatsNew/RuleDev/](http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/WhatsNew/RuleDev/). Using this form, your proposals to WAC 296-46B must be submitted electronically (e.g. compact disc, floppy disk, or as an email attachment sent to [electricalprogram@lni.wa.gov](mailto:electricalprogram@lni.wa.gov)). The Electrical Listserv will be used to keep stakeholders informed of the progress of the rule revision.

## ● Continuing Education Classes From The Department

The Electrical Program is planning inspector training for the next two years. We will allow space for our customers to join in the technical training we provide for our staff. We will have two one-day 2005 NEC code update classes this winter. Subscribers to the "Listserv" receive first notice of the space-available training dates and locations and the extra spaces usually fill in the first 48 hours. You should join our "Listserv" and watch for the opportunities for future free training presented by the Electrical Program. See the following article for details on how to subscribe to the "Listserv." Do not miss this great opportunity.

## ● Subscribe To The Electrical Listserv – Keep Up-To-Date

The Electrical Listserv (*Washington State Electrical Program Updates*) is available to everyone with an interest in the electrical industry and the activities of the Electrical Program and Electrical Board. The "Listserv" is the best way to keep current with changes to the electrical requirements in Washington. "Listserv" members receive up to date information via E-mail links and a copy of the monthly *ELECTRICAL CURRENTS* newsletter. Members may opt out of the "Listserv" at any time. You may join the "Listserv" (Link: "*Get Electrical Updates by E-mail*") at our Website.

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/ContactInfo/TradesLicensing/Electrical.asp>

## ● Work Allowed On Elevators By Licensed Electrical Contractors

Questions generated by our original (June 2004) announcement about the elevator mechanic license show we need to be more specific about jurisdictional boundaries. The changes to the elevator law and rules created the license and qualifications but did nothing to change the historical scope of work for electricians or elevator mechanics. The elevator mechanic license is required for installation, alteration and maintenance work on elevator and conveyance equipment. An appropriate electrical contractor license is still adequate for electrical installation and maintenance of all equipment, conduit and wire from the original circuit overcurrent device to the control panel for the elevator or conveyance including any required shunt trip wiring. An electrical contractor must install the branch circuit to the elevator controller for the car light and install the circuits and equipment for the pit light and pit receptacle. A licensed elevator mechanic must be present to assure safe, legal access to this space for maintenance work. The electrical contractor may not make any connections inside the elevator controller.

## ● September 30, 2004 Deadline For Licensing Required To Install And Wire Elevators

Under revisions to chapter 70.87 RCW and chapter 296-96 WAC new requirements went into effect requiring most elevator work to be performed only by licensed elevator mechanics that are employed by licensed elevator contractors. September 30, 2004 is the last day that qualified elevator mechanics and contractors can apply for a license and request that the state elevator licensing test be waived. Actual possession of a license will be required as of October 1, 2004 to perform most installation, alteration and maintenance work on elevators and other conveyances. For questions, please contact the L&I Elevator Section at 360-902-6130 or at [elevatorsect@lni.wa.gov](mailto:elevatorsect@lni.wa.gov). More information can be found at [www.elevators.lni.wa.gov](http://www.elevators.lni.wa.gov).

### ● More Information On “Rain Tight” EMT Fittings

This is a follow-up to an article originally printed in this newsletter August 2003 and titled “Listed EMT Compression Fittings Marked Raintight.” Several manufacturers now make listed compression-type EMT fittings for “wet locations” and “rain tight” applications in up to 1-inch trade sizes. Electrical manufacturers may use any approved laboratory to list their product, so there may be other listed fittings of this type available in the marketplace. It is the installer’s responsibility to provide evidence that the fittings they use are approved for the environment in which they are installed. Look for the “wet locations” or “rain tight” marking on the container and the listing mark on the fitting.

### ● Lighting Maintenance and Retrofit Work

The scope of work for the nonresidential lighting maintenance and lighting retrofit (07A) specialty is strictly *“limited to working within the housing of existing nonresidential luminaires for work related to repair, service, maintenance of luminaires and installation of energy efficiency lighting retrofit upgrades...”*

The only work an unlicensed firm or uncertified worker may perform on an electrical luminaire is lamp replacement. Most work performed by 07A electrical contractors is required to be permitted and inspected. In addition to permitting and inspection, an electrical plan review is necessary for all new and replacement (i.e. except for exact same replacement of ballasts) work in educational, institutional, and medical facilities. See WAC 96-46B-920(2)(h) for the complete scope of work.

The department will issue citations and penalties to: unlicensed firms and uncertified individuals found to be doing any work or maintenance on a luminaire (other than lamp replacement) and firms who fail to obtain a required electrical permit or plan review prior to beginning work.

### ● iPEP and EIRS Users – Necessary Information To Help Ensure Timely Inspections

Thanks to all of you using the iPEP and EIRS online systems to purchase permits and request inspections (38% of all permit sales and 30% of inspection requests). When using these tools it is important to know how to get inspection information to the inspector(s) as clearly as possible.

**When you purchase the permit online**, please give an accurate description of the job and it’s components. This information is recorded in the field named **“Installation Description”**. Repeating the line-item fee information in this field does not help the inspector identify the work. (e.g. Rather than including “1-5 circuits” as the installation description, include “one new 20 amp, 120 volt circuit from service panel to copy machine in managers office”).

**When you request the inspection online**, give descriptive information in the **“Comments”** or **“Request Description”** field to let the inspector know exactly what you want inspected. “Request Description” is used to indicate what is to be inspected. Examples would be “ceiling cover”, “service”, “re-inspect corrections”, “circuits”, etc. “Comment” would be used for clarification or helpful information such as “5th floor, south end”, “dining/kitchen area only”, “lockbox number 5422”, “key on meter base”, etc. If an inspector has to waste two hours in a facility trying to find someone that knows where the electrical work that needs inspection is located, then every customer who needs inspection that day suffers. If you choose to enter specific needs such as “call owner first at 555-5555” or “afternoon inspection preferred”, we may not be able to accommodate such a request and/or someone may not answer that phone. We still have to make an attempt to do the inspection within the required time and, with the daily workload from other customers, will not be able to keep calling or trying to gain access.

If you need to make special arrangements for an inspection, do not rely on faxes, E-mail, voice mail, or entries in the “Comments” or “Request Description” fields. You must talk directly with the inspector on the phone or in person to make such special arrangements.

### ● Electrical Question of the Month

**This Month’s Question:** The required grounding conductor for metal television satellite dish receiving antennas and metal structures supporting them must be connected to the grounding electrode system of the building or structure served with a conductor not smaller than **A) 12 AWG copper, B) 10 AWG copper, C) 8 AWG copper, D) 6 AWG copper.**

**Last Month’s Question:** No parts of a pendant, lighting track, ceiling suspended paddle fan, or hanging type fixture can be located within a zone of how many feet horizontally and vertically from the top of a bathtub rim? **A) 1’, 6’, B) 1 ½’, 7’, C) 2’, 7 ½’, D) 3’, 8’.** The answer is: **D) [NEC 410.004(D)]**